United Nations A/63/L.61

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
17 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 57 (b)
New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support: causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Antigua and Barbuda:* draft resolution

Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa[1] and its resolutions 53/92 of 7 December 1998, 54/234 of 22 December 1999, 55/217 of 21 December 2000, 56/37 of 4 December 2001, 57/296 of 20 December 2002, 57/337 of 3 July 2003, 58/235 of 23 December 2003, 59/255 of 23 December 2004, 60/223 of 23 December 2005, 61/230 of 22 December 2006 and 62/275 of 11 September 2008, as well as its resolutions 62/179 of 19 December 2007 on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and 59/213 of 20 December 2004 on cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union,

Recalling also in this context Security Council resolutions 1809 (2008) of 16 April 2008 on peace and security in Africa, 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008 on women and peace and security, 1366 (2001) of 30 August 2001 on the role of the Council in the prevention of armed conflicts, 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005 on children and armed conflict, 1625 (2005) of 14 September 2005 on strengthening the effectiveness of the Council's role in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa, and 1631 (2005) of 17 October 2005 on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 45* (A/56/45).

08-65819 (E) 181208

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] through which world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to addressing the special needs of Africa, and recalling also its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006,

Reaffirming the "Political declaration on Africa's development needs" adopted at the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs on 22 September 2008,[3]

Recognizing that development, peace, security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

Stressing that the responsibility for peace and security in Africa, including the capacity to address the root causes of conflict and to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner, lies primarily with African countries, while recognizing the need for support from the international community,

Recognizing, in particular, the importance of strengthening the capacity of the African Union and subregional organizations to address the causes of conflict in Africa,

Noting that despite the positive trends and advances in obtaining durable peace in Africa, the conditions required for sustainable development have yet to be consolidated throughout the continent and that there is therefore an urgent need to develop African human and institutional capacities, particularly in countries emerging from conflict,

Noting also that conflict prevention and the consolidation of peace would benefit from the coordinated, sustained and integrated efforts of the United Nations system and Member States, and regional and subregional organizations, as well as international and regional financial institutions,

Reaffirming the need to strengthen the synergy between Africa's economic and social development programmes and its peace and security agenda,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report of the Secretary-General[4] on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[5] and welcomes recent institutional developments in addressing such causes and other efforts in conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding undertaken by African countries, African regional organizations and the United Nations system;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made, in particular by the African Union and the subregional organizations, in the prevention, management and resolution of conflict and in post-conflict peacebuilding in a number of African countries, and calls for intensified efforts and a coordinated approach between national Governments, the African Union, subregional organizations, the United Nations system and partners with a view to achieving further progress towards the goal of a conflict-free Africa;

3. *Welcomes* also the ongoing efforts of the African Union and the subregional organizations to strengthen their peacekeeping capacity and to take the lead in peacekeeping operations in the continent, in accordance with Chapter VIII of

---

[2] See resolution 60/1.

[3] Resolution 63/1.

[4] A/63/212.

[5] A/52/871-S/1998/318.

the Charter of the United Nations and in close coordination with the United Nations, through the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, as well as ongoing efforts to develop a continental early warning system, response capacity, such as the African Standby Force, and enhanced mediation capacity, including through the Panel of the Wise;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and Member States to support the peace consolidation mechanisms and processes, including the Panel of the Wise, the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Framework, the early warning system and the operationalization of the African Standby Force;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to support relevant United Nations bodies, including the Peacebuilding Commission, and to assist post-conflict countries, upon their request, in achieving a smooth transition from relief to development;

6. *Stresses* the importance of creating an environment conducive to national reconciliation and social and economic recovery in countries emerging from conflict;

7. *Invites* the United Nations and the donor community to increase efforts to support ongoing regional efforts to build African mediation and negotiation capacity;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and Member States to support the African Union in its effort to effectively integrate training in international humanitarian law and international human rights law, with particular emphasis on the rights of women and children, in the training of civilian and military personnel of national standby contingents at both the operational and tactical levels, as set out in article 13 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union;[6]

9. *Recognizes* that international and regional efforts to prevent conflict and consolidate peace in Africa should be channelled towards the sustainable development of Africa and human and institutional capacity-building of African countries and organizations, particularly in priority areas identified at the continental level;

10. *Recalls* the signing of the Declaration on Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union[7] in Addis Ababa on 16 November 2006 and the ongoing efforts in this regard, and underlines the importance of the implementation of the ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, mainly focusing on peace and security, in particular the operationalization of the African Union Standby Force, urges all stakeholders to support the full implementation of the ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his next annual report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his 1998 report[5] a detailed account of the progress achieved in this regard;

11. *Stresses* the critical importance of a regional approach to conflict prevention, in particular with respect to cross-border issues such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, the prevention of illegal exploitation

[6] Available from www.africa-union.org.

[7] A/61/630, annex.

of natural resources and trafficking in high-value commodities and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and in this regard emphasizes the central role of the African Union and subregional organizations in addressing such issues;

12. *Notes with concern* that violence against women and children everywhere is increasing, and calls upon Member States to ensure that strict universal adherence to relevant international norms regarding violence against women and children is given priority consideration;

13. *Calls for* the enhancement of the role of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding consistent with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000);

14. *Calls for* the safeguarding of the principle of refugee protection and the resolution of the plight of refugees, including through support of efforts aimed at addressing the causes of refugee movement, bringing about the safe and sustainable return of those populations;

15. *Welcomes* African-led initiatives to strengthen political, economic and corporate governance, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism, encourages even more African countries to join this process, and calls upon the United Nations system and Member States to assist African Member States and regional and subregional organizations in their efforts to enhance good governance, including the promotion of the rule of law and the holding of free and fair elections;

16. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the expert group meeting on "Promoting partnerships in support of African Peer Review implementation", held in Ethiopia in November 2007,[8] and calls upon the United Nations system and Member States to take them into account in their support of good governance in Africa;

17. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and invites Member States, on the basis of the principle of national ownership, to assist African countries emerging from conflict in their efforts to build national capacities of governance, including the rehabilitation of the security sector, disarmament, demobilization and the reintegration of ex-combatants, provision for the safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees, the launch of income-generation activities, particularly for youth and women, and the delivery of basic public services;

18. *Stresses* the importance of effectively addressing challenges that continue to hamper the achievement of peace, stability and sustainable development on the continent, inter alia, the food, fuel and financial crises, the increased prevalence of infectious disease such as HIV/AIDS, the effects of global warming and climate change, the extremely high rates of youth unemployment, human trafficking, massive displacements of people, the illegal exploitation of natural resources, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, the emergence of terrorist networks and the increased activity of transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, and in this regard encourages the United Nations system and Member States to assist African countries in effectively addressing these challenges;

19. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, as well as the bilateral and multilateral partners to deliver expeditiously on commitments and to ensure the full

[8] Available from www.un.org/osaa/reports.html.

and speedy implementation of the provisions contained in the "Political declaration on Africa's development needs" adopted at the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs on 22 September 2008;[3]

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the strategic review of the new and emerging challenges and persistent obstacles to the attainment of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, taking fully into account the 1998 report of the Secretary-General;[5]

21. *Decides* to continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report of the Secretary-General;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution.